



KING'S LANGLEY PRIORY, HERTS.

This priory was founded by King Edward the Second, who, by letters patent, dated at his palace at Preachley, granted to the fraternity of Friars Preachers, a garden and other lands lying contiguous to the parish church; and by other letters patent dated at York, granted to them seventy marks, wherewith they might build themselves a house in his park of Langley, for the daily celebration of mass for the soul of himself and his successors.

King Edward the Third, also is further testimony of his affection to the foundation of his royal father, gave them a mass cup called Edward, and thirty-nine other mass cups, with a particular injunction that they should

never be alienated from this religious house. Upon the dissolution, the revenues of this priory, then valued at the sum of 122*l.* 4*s.*, were surrendered to the Crown.

King Philip and Queen Mary, in 1557, gave and restored to this priory all the houses and grounds, &c., but in the first of Elizabeth, A.D. 1559, this priory, with the appurtenances, reverted again to the Crown, and in the 42*nd* year of her reign, 1600, gave to Martin, Bishop of Ely, the rectory of King's Langley, with the rights, &c., &c., late parcel of the possessions of the dissolved priory.

Edmond de Langley, the fifth son of King Edward the Third, who married Isabel, second daughter of Don Pedro, King of Castile and

Leon, was buried, according to his own desire, in this priory of the Preaching Friars, in the third year of Henry the Fourth, from whence his tomb was removed into the parish church at the time of the dissolution, and now stands at the N.E. corner of the chancel within the communion-rails, covered with a slab of Purbeck marble.

Notwithstanding the present insignificance of the village where the remains of this priory are situated, it could at one time boast of a palace erected by Henry the Third. Of this once magnificent structure (covering three acres of land), however, but very few vestiges can now be traced.—(From a Correspondent at King's Langley.)

WOODS, FORESTS, AND METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS REPORT.

THE following is an abstract of the twentieth Report of the Commissioners of her Majesty's Woods, Forests, Land Revenue, Works, and Buildings. By the fourteenth annual Report of the said Commissioners, it appears that the leases of Crown property in England and Wales granted in the year ending the 5th of January, 1843, amounted in annual value to 3,692*l.* 7*s.* 4*d.*; the yearly rents reserved to 3,711*l.* 7*s.* 3*d.*. The proceeds of the sales by public auction of the land revenues of the Crown in England, between the 5th of January, 1842, and the 5th of January, 1843, produced 2,085*l.* Sixty-six sales of lands and premises by private contract yielded 15,183*l.* 13*s.* 5*d.*. The appendix contains an account of land-tax redeemed by the Crown up to the 5th January, 1843, which amounted to 6,141*l.* 0*s.* 7*d.*, in extinction of which there was transferred to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, in the Three per Cent. Consolidated Bank Annuities, 194,850*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*; Reduced Bank Annuities, 30,430*l.* 3*s.* 10*d.*; total, 225,280*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*. The amount paid for the purchase of property on behalf of the Crown was 20,760*l.* 10*s.* 0*d.*, was paid for the purchase of property for the purpose of forming a new opening from Knightsbridge-road into Hyde-park, and a new opening from High-street, Kensington, into an intended new

road across the Palace-green. The reports contain an account of the particulars of some purchases which have been made for the improvement of the Crown's property in the Phoenix-park, near Dublin. The Commissioners have also purchased some property lying to the south of Holyrood Palace, Edinburgh. The purchases alluded to were completed for the sum of 580*l.* The sum of 711*l.* has been paid for the purchase of some premises adjoining the ancient ruins of the Abbey of Arbroath. The tenement in question is built against the walls of the abbey, and, it is said, would have interfered with the preservation of the ruins. For Holyhead-road 12,697*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* has been received, and 11,265*l.* 9*s.* 7*d.* expended. For the metropolitan improvements, purchases to the amount of 300,755*l.* 5*s.* 8*d.* have been made; and contracts for further purchases have been made to the amount of 194,641*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, viz.:—in the line of Oxford-street to Holborn purchases have been completed to the amount of 166,831*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.*, and contracts to the amount of 15,906*l.* 15*s.* In the line from How-street to Charlotte-street, Bloomsbury, the purchases amount to 35,464*l.* 11*s.*; contracts, 26,463*l.* In a line from the London Docks to Spital-fields Church purchases, 41,157*l.* 10*s.*; contracts, 71,102*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*. From Coventry-street to Long-acre, purchases 54,281*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*; contracts, 78,477*l.* From East Smithfield to Rosemary-lane no purchases have been com-

pleted, but contracts have been made to the amount of 2,670*l.* For the purpose of these improvements the sum of 500,000*l.* has been borrowed from the Equitable Assurance Company. Three houses have been purchased in High-street, Kensington, which were required for opening the intended new communication between Kensington and Baywater, which not only forms an essential part of the plan for letting for villas the site of the Royal kitchen-garden at Kensington, but will be a great accommodation to the rapidly increased and increasing population of that district. In order to form a new park in the eastern part of the metropolis, the freehold interest in 101 out of 290 acres has been purchased. The following items of expenditure are to be found in the reports:—Amounts paid for purchases at Charing-cross and in the Strand, 674,010*l.* 2*s.*; in Downing-street, 67,232*l.* 6*s.* 5*d.*; King-street, 17,028*l.* 10*s.*; Bedford-street, 7,325*l.*; York-street, Tavistock-street, Long-acre, 29,403*l.* 10*s.*; Piccadilly, 2,130*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*. Payments made for the exhumation of bodies from St. Martin's churchyard, 2,523*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*. The receipts arising from the woods, forests, and land revenues of the Crown in the year ended 5th of January, 1843, including "produce of the land revenue," the "Royal gardens, parks, forests, and woodlands," "extraordinary receipts," "public works and buildings," and "Holyhead Labour and Roads," were 754,213*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.*